

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 24 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. HAK DEPARTS PARIS, SAYS " SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS" MADE IN THO TALKS. NYDN SAYS " HENRY HEADS HOME WITH HOPE." NYT' S FLORA LEWIS REPORTS DRV PARIS SOURCES ENDORSE HAK STATEMENT BUT DECLINE COMMENT ON " SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS" REFERENCE. HAK SAYS TALKS AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT " STRICT IMPLEMENTATION" OF C- F AND ARRANGING POL SETTLEMENT, AND HE WILL RETURN JUNE 6 TO CONCLUDE TALKS. GVN SOURCES DECLINE COMMENT ON TENOR OF DISCUSSIONS. LEWIS REPORTS " QUALIFIED SOURCE" SAYS CENTRAL EFFORT HAD BEEN TO FIND " AMBIGUOUS PHRASES THAT BOTH SIDES COULD ACCEPT TO MASK CONTINUED BASIC DISAGREEMENT ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAM' S FUTURE." SULLIVAN SAIGON STAY EXPECTED TO BE BRIEF. LEWIS ALSO REPORTS " AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" IN PARIS SAYS HAK OBTAINED SOVIET PLEDGE EARLIER THIS MONTH TO " DISCOURAGE" HANOI LAUNCHING ANY NEW MAJOR OFFENSIVES BY THREATENING NOT TO REPLACE WEAPONS LOST IN SUCH WAYS. US AND USSR SAID AGREED TO RESTRICT SUPPLY OF ARMS TO HANOI AND SAIGON TO PRESENT LEVELS. NO CLUES ABOUT WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED REGARDING CAMBODIA (NYT).

2. NYT' S TREASTER REPORTS SULLIVAN SAIGON ARRIVAL TO DISCUSS PARIS DEVELOPMENTS WITH THIEU. GVN SOURCE SAYS

ONE IMPORTANT PART OF DISCUSSIONS WILL RELATE TO BETTER DELINEATION OF ZONES OF CONTROL. NOTES SULLIVAN MET BY WHITEHOUSE, AS MARTIN NOT YET CONFIRMED BY SENATE. WP REPORTS SULLIVAN MET ONE HOUR WITH THIEU.

3. POST' S RANDAL, IN PARIS, SEES HAK' S REFERENCE TO INTENTION TO CONCLUDE DISCUSSIONS AFTER JUNE 6 AS WARNING TO THIEU NOT TRY IMPEDE NEGOTS AS HE DID PRIOR TO C- F. RANDAL' S " OBSERVERS" TELL HIM THAT " LESS OBSTRUCTIONIST INTERPRETATION OF C- F AGREEMENT BY GVN MIGHT OPEN WAY FOR POSSIBLE COMPROMISES, ESPECIALLY ON CAMBODIA.

4. AP REPORTS LOC NINH ARRIVAL OF ICCS TEAM TO UNCLASSIFIED

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INVESTIGATE COMMUNIST CHARGES OF US BOMBING. DISPATCH DESCRIBES TOWN AS VC " CAPITAL" WITH ARVN OVER 10 MILES AWAY. VC " POLITELY DECLINE" CANADIAN REQUEST TO PERMIT GVN OFFICERS ACCOMPANY TEAM ON INSPECTION. BOMB CRATERS AND 20 HOSPITALIZED PERSONS SHOWN AS EVIDENCE (NYT, WP, SUN).

5. GVN ANNOUNCES IT WILL DEMOBILIZE 47,000 SOLDIERS BY END OF YEAR. FORTY RVN LEGISLATORS PETITION FOR RELEASE OF TRAN NGOC CHAU (WP).

6. CALIFORNIA REPS. STARK AND DELLUMS BRING SUIT IN US DISTRICT COURT, S. F., TO HALT US COMBAT OPS IN CAMBODIA (WP). FANK REGAINS CONTROL OF SIX-MILES STRETCH ALONG ROUTE 4. THREE MEMBERS OF KHMER SUPREME COUNCIL AGREE RELEASE 30 PERSONS DETAINED AFTER MARCH 17 PALACE BOMBING, INCLUDING QUEEN MOTHER (WP). CSM' S OKA, IN PARIS, SAYS KHMER OBSERVERS THERE BELIEVE TIME NOT RIPE FOR POLITICAL COMPROMISE ALTHOUGH SONN SANN TRYING. SAY KHMER ROUGE IN NO MOOD COME TO TERMS WITH GKR AND NEW GOVERNMENT STILL TOO WEAK TO TREAT WITH KR ON EQUAL FOOTING.

7. LORING AFB (MAINE) WIVES OF PILOTS BOMBING CAMBODIA PROTEST BOMBING IS ILLEGAL, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT POWS FREED AND NO US TROOPS TO PROTECT (PHINQ).

8. POST' S LIPPMAN SAYS CAMBODIA NOW IN HANDS OF LEADERSHIP WHICH AT LEAST GIVES OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF DYNAMISM AFTER RULE BY MYSTICAL LON NOL AND DESPISED BROTHER. BUT, ACCORDING LIPPMAN, IN TAM, SIRIK MATAK AND CHENG HENG WERE TRIED BEFORE AND FOUND WANTING. FOREIGN OBSERVERS DON' T THINK THEY

CAN BRING ABOUT CHANGES NEEDED TO SAVE COUNTRY IN LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE. " LITANY" OF PROBLEMS REMAINS: CORRUPTION, INFLATION, REFUGEES, UNEMPLOYMENT, FUEL SHORTAGES, BUREAUCRATIC INEPTITUDE. US EMBASSY SEES STALEMATE: GKR CAN' T BEAT KI AND VN COMMUNISTS, CAN' T EFFECTIVELY GOVERN ITS OWN DWINDLING TERRITORY,
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CAN' T COUNT ON US BOMBING INDEFINITELY, AND GKR WON' T WIN BACK ANY LOST TERRITORY. BUT ENEMY COULDN' T EVEN TAKE TAKEO AND WAS UNABLE TOPPLE GKR, SO IT SHOULD RE- THINK PROBLEM. ONLY WAY,
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